

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 115192

63

ORIGIN EA-10

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:GBROBERTS

APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT H. MILLER

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O 162251Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US

SUBJECT: THAI-US RELATIONS IN MAYAGUEZ AFTERMATH

1. IN HIS MAY 16 PRESS CONFERENCE, SECRETARY KISSINGER COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON THAI-U.S. RELATIONSHIPS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT. THE EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES IN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THAI:

2. "WITH RESPECT TO THAILAND, WE HAVE, OF COURSE, A TREATY RELATIONSHIP WITH THAILAND IN SEATO. AND WE HAVE HAD A SERIES OF BASE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THEM WHICH, OVER THE PERIOD OF YEARS, HAD LED TO A DEGREE OF COOPERATION IN EVENTS IN INDOCHINA WHICH WERE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST AND IN WHICH WE HAVE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE ASSISTANCE THAT THAILAND HAS GIVEN US.

"IN THE COURSE OF THIS DECADE, IT MAY BE THAT A PATTERN OF ACTION HAS DEVELOPED THAT MADE US ASSUME THAT OUR LATITUDE
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PAGE 02 STATE 115192

IN USING THESE BASES WAS GREATER THAN THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WOULD PERMIT TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT. AND THEREFORE, INsofar AS WE HAVE CAUSED ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT, WE REGRET THOSE ACTIONS.

"AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS CLEAR THAT ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND ANOTHER COUNTRY MUST BE BASED ON MUTUAL INTEREST. AND WE, I BELIEVE, HAVE A REASON, OR HAVE A RIGHT, TO EXPECT THAT THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE AN ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH US LOOK WITH SOME SYMPATHY AT MATTERS THAT CONCERN THE UNITED STATES PROFOUNDLY.

"IF CONDITIONS IN THE AREA CHANGE, WE ARE PREPARED TO ADJUST OUR RELATIONSHIP TO NEW CONDITIONS AND TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ON THAT SUBJECT IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION."

3. "THE THAI GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF, IN GENERAL, IN A COMPLICATED POSITION AFTER THE EVENTS OF INDOCHINA, QUITE INDEPENDENT OF THIS RECENT OPERATION.

"WE HAD, PRIOR TO THIS RECENT OPERATION, MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT ITS CONCEPTION OF ITS REQUIREMENTS, OR OF THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENT IN THE PRESENT PERIOD. WE ARE STILL PREPARED TO DO THIS AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS UNDER SOME STRAINS, AND UNDER SOME PUBLIC NECESSITIES. AND THEY HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT WE, TOO, HAVE OUR NECESSITIES."

4. "WELL, THE ASSUMPTION WAS THAT WE WERE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IN WHICH ON OCCASION, WE HAVE ACTED WITHOUT HAVING HAD A FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATION, AND IT WAS THEREFORE THOUGHT THAT WITHIN THE TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP IT WOULD BE A MEASURE THAT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD.

"IN ANY EVENT, IT WOULD HAVE PRESENTED MASSIVE PROBLEMS EITHER WAY."

5. "I DO NOT PERSONALLY ANTICIPATE A SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. I BELIEVE THAT RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES MUST ALWAYS BE BASED ON A MUTUALITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 STATE 115192

INTEREST. WE ARE DOING OTHER COUNTRIES NO FAVOR WHEN WE HAVE A WELL-CONSIDERED ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP, BECAUSE IT MUST BE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST. OTHER COUNTRIES ARE DOING US NO FAVOR BY HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US IF IT DOESN'T SERVE THEIR INTERESTS. AND, THEREFORE, I AM ASSUMING THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WILL LOOK AT ITS LONG-TERM INTERESTS AS WE WILL. WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL ISSUES WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN A SPIRIT OF APPRECIATION FOR WHAT THAILAND HAS DONE OVER SEVERAL DECADES AND WITH A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE.

"BUT, AS I SAID THE OTHER DAY, WE WILL NOT INSIST ON

ARRANGEMENTS THAT OTHER COUNTRIES NO LONGER CONSIDER IN
THEIR INTERESTS."

6. "I REPEAT: WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN A SPIRIT OF
FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION ALL THE CONCERNS THAT THE
THAI GOVERNMENT HAS, AND WE DO REGRET ANY EMBARRASSMENT
WE MAY HAVE CAUSED THEM." KISSINGER

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